



File Code: 1920

Date: JUL - 2 2010

Greetings:

Enclosed is the Record of Decision (ROD) and associated documents for Phase 1 (Forested Biological Community) of the Boise NF Forest Plan Amendments to Facilitate Implementation of the Plan-Scale Wildlife Conservation Strategy (WCS). The ROD documents my decision to select Alternative B (Proposed Action) as the Forest Plan amendments.

Key features of my decision include:

- Forestwide wildlife standard WIST01 has been deleted and replaced by a more comprehensive and diverse set of management direction that relies on accepted conservation concepts and principles for wildlife conservation.
- Approximately 400,000 acres in the planning unit (i.e., the Forest) that are within Management Prescription Category (MPC) 5.2 (Commodity Production Emphasis) have been reallocated to MPC 5.1 (Restoration and Maintenance of Forested Landscapes).
- Management direction has been added to emphasize retention of most forest stands that meet the definitions of old-forest habitat or the large tree size class.
- Management direction has been added to focus restoration in forested stands classified as large tree size class and medium tree size class to promote desired old forest habitat and large tree stand conditions, and to reduce hazards and risks to these habitats.
- Management direction has been added or modified to emphasize retention of large snags while balancing other objectives.
- A restoration and prioritization strategy for wildlife habitat has been added. More specifically, Forestwide and management area direction has been modified or added to focus limited resources and funds in areas where the greatest gains can be made, recognizing both long-term goals and short-term Forest Plan objectives.
- Core watershed areas for wolverine where human disturbance may be affecting denning success and overall wolverine persistence have been identified. In addition, objectives have been added for these areas to focus further data collection and surveys to determine to what extent winter recreational activities are influencing wolverine use of the landscape.

This decision is subject to the optional appeal procedures available during the planning rule transition period pursuant to 36 CFR 219.35(b) provisions of the 2000 planning rule (65 FR 67514) and 2001 interpretative rule (66 FR 1864). Consistent with Section 8(2) of these procedures, a written notice of appeal must be filed with the Intermountain Regional Forester within 45 days of the date that the legal notice of this decision appears in *The Idaho Statesman* newspaper. Appeals must be sent to: Regional Forester of the Intermountain Region; USDA - Forest Service; 324 25th Street; Ogden, UT 84401.



A copy of the appeal must simultaneously be sent to the deciding officer: Forest Supervisor, Boise National Forest; USDA - Forest Service; 1249 South Vinnell Way, Suite 200; Boise, Idaho 83709.

Any notice of appeal must be fully consistent with Section 9 of the optional appeal procedures available during the planning rule transition period pursuant to 36 CFR 219.35(b) provisions of the 2000 planning rule (65 FR 67514) and 2001 interpretative rule (66 FR 1864).

The ROD, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), a summary of the FEIS, and a short document illustrating the key points of my decision are posted on the Forest's Web site at <http://fs.usda.gov/boise>.

I want to close by thanking you for your continued interest of your National Forests and your participation in this Forest Plan amendment process. The efforts and input of all involved have greatly improved the amendment!

For more information or for a copy of the FEIS, please contact Randall Hayman at 208-373-4157.

Sincerely,


CECILIA R. SEESHOLTZ
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure